generation Advanced Turbo Prop. aircrafts (ATP) and other matters;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard.

(c) whether any agreement has since been signed between British Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited had received a proposal from British Aerospace for manufacture of the Advanced Turbo Prop. Aircraft in HAL. After preliminary discussions, the British Aerospace have been asked to revise their proposals to make the same economically viable.

Selling of Obsolete Defence Equipment

1235. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3149 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1991 and state the procedure adopted for selling old obsolete defence equipments and the manner in which Government propose to ensure that these sold out defence weapons do not pass into countries where low intensity conflicts are waging?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Old obsolete defence equipments which are considered viable for sale to foreign buyers is proposed to be sold through the Projects & Equipment Corporation of India (PEC). PEC being an export house follows normal commercial procedures in such sales and in addition will observe the prescribed end-user conditionalities to guard against the items sold reaching unintended destinations.

Light Combat Aircraft

1236. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) by when the first aircraft of the light combat aircraft (LCA) project is expected to be ready to fly;

(b) whether Government propose to look forward for participants in the project in view of the massive cost of Rs. 20,000 crores in it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is expected to be ready for flight in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Proposals for participation in the development of the LCA as and when received would be given favourable consideration. However, its cost is not Rs. 20,000 crores as stated in the text of the question, but is much lower.

Indian Interest in Soviet Aircraft Carrier 'VARYAG'

1237. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports which appeared in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 11th February, 1992 to the effect that India and China are interested in buying the former So-